

## Hallaton Treasure Travelling Exhibition

In the year 2000, amateur archaeologists from the Hallaton Fieldwork Group were fieldwalking near the village of Hallaton in Southeast Leicestershire. They found what would eventually be described as one of the most important archaeological finds of recent years – the Hallaton Treasure.

The Hallaton Treasure is an internationally significant find and has shed light on the Corieltavi, the inhabitants of the East Midlands in the Iron Age period. Over 5000 Iron Age and Roman coins were found at the site along with a Roman cavalry parade helmet, mysterious silver objects and the remains of hundreds of pigs. The site has been interpreted as a mysterious 2000-year-old shrine of the local Corieltavi tribe. Most of the objects were buried on the eve of the Roman invasion of AD 43 so it has been suggested that the tribe were making sacrifices to their gods, possibly asking for protection from the threat of invasion.

Visitors to Hallaton Museum will be able to explore this Iron Age mystery through the words of the people who discovered it, and marvel at 20 beautifully preserved gold and silver coins from the 2000-year-old site when the Hallaton Treasure Travelling Exhibition goes on display from 2<sup>nd</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

The exhibition was written by members of the Hallaton Fieldwork Group, Vicki Score, Site Director from University of Leicester Archaeological Services and Roman military expert, Dr Simon James from the University of Leicester. It offers their views on what was happening at this mysterious site and why. The stunning replica objects on display include an Iron Age tankard based on a tankard handle found with over 300 pig bones, the remains of huge feasts which accompanied the sacrifices. Also on display are 20 of the real coins found at the site.

Children will be able to try on a replica Roman cavalry helmet, similar to the one found at Hallaton and take part in a special quiz about the exhibition. Visitors can also explore the site through a touchscreen which features a movie about the discovery and interpretation of the Treasure, artefact slideshows and a 3D model of how the shrine developed.

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**For further details about the Treasure Project see the following background details.**

- Please visit our website: [www.leics.gov.uk/harboroughmuseum](http://www.leics.gov.uk/harboroughmuseum)
- [www.facebook.com/HarboroughMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/HarboroughMuseum)
- <http://twitter.com/LeicsMuseums>
- [www.facebook.com/HallatonMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/HallatonMuseum)

Hallaton Museum can be found at the Tin Tab, Hallaton, LE16 8TY and is open between 2.30-5pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. The museum is also open for private group bookings: please contact [museumhallaton@gmail.com](mailto:museumhallaton@gmail.com)

**The Southeast Leicestershire Treasure** is the archive of material produced by several stages of archaeological work undertaken by local community archaeologists and University of Leicester Archaeological Services. The site proved to be an internationally important ritual site dating mostly to the generations before and after the Roman Conquest of Britain in the 1st century AD.

**The purpose of the project** is purchase, conserve, interpret and promote the Southeast Leicestershire Treasure. The cost of the project is £933,872 which includes purchasing the finds, conserving the finds, displays at Harborough Museum and at Hallaton Museum, two touring exhibitions, web based resources, workshops for schools and community groups, and events for the public.

**The project is supported by grants** from The Heritage Lottery Fund of £650,600, £100,000 from The Art Fund, the UK's leading independent art charity, £35,000 from the Museums and Art Galleries Improvements Fund, £35,000 from the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, The Headley Trust, Renaissance East Midlands and local contributions from the Friends of Leicester and Leicestershire Museums, the Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group and the County Council, as well as private individuals. The support of Harborough District Council is also gratefully acknowledged.

**The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history, HLF grants open up our nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. Since its conception, HLF has supported 26,000 projects allocating over £4 billion across the UK.

**The Art Fund** is the national charity for art, helping UK museums and galleries to buy, show and share art. Over the past 5 years, the Art Fund has given £24 million to buy art and supported a range of projects and programmes aimed at helping more people enjoy art. It is independently funded by 85,000 supporters who purchase a National Art Pass, costing from just £37.50, which gives free entry to over 200 museums, galleries and historic houses across the country as well as 50% off major exhibitions.

Find out more about the Art Fund and how to buy a National Art Pass at [www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org) . Media contact 020 7225 4888, [media@artfund.org](mailto:media@artfund.org)

**The ACE/V&A Purchase Grant Fund** is a government fund, established at the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) in 1881 as part of its nationwide work. The annual grants budget, currently £600,000. The Fund supports the acquisition of objects relating to the arts, literature, and history by regional museums, record offices and specialist libraries in England and Wales. Each year it considers some 250 applications and awards grants to around 100 organisations, enabling acquisitions of over £4million to go ahead. Visit the website at <http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/p/purchase-grant-fund/>

**The Headley Museums Archaeological Acquisition Fund** has been established by the Headley Trust, one of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts. Its trustees realise the great difficulties many regional and local museums find in raising the money to buy archaeological artefacts. They are also aware of the proliferation of finds as a consequence of the success of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The Headley initiative is intended to help museums secure and display notable finds. The Headley Scheme runs alongside and in collaboration with the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund. Visit the website at [www.headley-archaeology.org.uk](http://www.headley-archaeology.org.uk)